



CSBG Success Story

Please submit success story to Jessica Simon at jessica.simon@commerce.wa.gov. If you have questions, contact Jessica at 360-725-2850. Due Date: The 10th of the month the story is due.

Date: 4/14/2010

Organization Name:	Community Action Center (Whitman County)
Contact Person/Title:	Amy Robbins, Program Manager
Contact E-mail:	amyr@cacwhitman.com
Contact Phone #:	509-334-9147

1. Success Story is for:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARRA <input type="checkbox"/> FFY 09 (skip to question 8) <input type="checkbox"/> FFY 10 (skip questions 6 & 7)
2. CSBG Project Name:	Whitman County Legal Services
3. Total Project Budget:	\$73,516
4. Total CSBG Amount of Budget:	\$65,318
5. Number of total clients expected to serve, with all funds for the project:	50
6. Number of ARRA jobs expected to be created/retained as a result of this project:	1
7. Number of ARRA jobs actually created/retained as a result of this project to date:	1
8. Brief project/activity description:	Create a Courthouse Facilitator position that will assist clients with civil legal issues.
9. How will this project help clients, build community, and form new partnerships? What aspects of the project would you like to share with the public:	
<p>This project has included many different groups in the county that had not previously worked together to address the legal needs in a collaborative manner. This partnership has included Whitman County Superior Court, Whitman County Clerk of the Court, Whitman County Bar Association, Community Action Center, Whitman County Commissioners, Legal Services Advisory Committee. The CSBG ARRA funds allowed for CAC to plan and address the loss of the Legal Foundation of Washington's funding to provide access to legal services for low income households that typically have not had access to legal assistance when needed. The ARRA funding provided the opportunity to create a local solution to address a potentially large void in services. Gathering the correct people around the table to solve the loss of funding by creating a local solution has been a rewarding experience which has only increased clients access to legal services and has made for a more effective continuum of legal services and improved access for those clients in need. The ARRA funds will continue to support the development and continuance of the program and the group is working towards identifying other funding opportunities to continue the program past the life of the ARRA funding. Without this opportunity this would most likely have not happened to increase access for low to moderate income households to much needed legal assistance. Client story: A young woman was going through a divorce and showed up on the court docket without an attorney as she was not able to afford one. The judge before</p>	

proceeding encouraged her to meet with the courthouse facilitator to receive assistance in filling out paperwork in an appropriate and accurate manner. The woman may have not has access to assistance in filling out the complex paperwork that she needed to represent herself in the case without the addition of the facilitator. With the assistance she was able to get a stay to have time to work with the facilitator to secure pro bono representation and eventually win full custody of her children. It was a great success. Many groups working together to address a community need when in the end our clients are the people that are ultimately sucessful!